(b) Depends upon availability of funds and other resources.

(c) Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur parallel BG (50 Kms.)

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Development of Railway in West Bengal

1392. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any representation from Members of Parliament regarding development of Railways in North and South Dinajpur (North Bengal);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A representation dated 20.9.96 from Shri Palas Barman, Ex. MP suggesting expeditions construction of Eklakhi-Balurghat new line and provision of at least 5 crores to the project during 1997-98 was received.

(c) The work is progressing well. The outlay has been increased to Rs. 10 crores in 1997-98 to expedite the work.

Demand of Steel in Maharashtra

1393. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the demand of steel in Maharashtra at present; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Demand assessment is made by the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel annually only on an all India basis.

(b) To augment supply of steel in the country, Government is facilitating creation of additional capacities in private sector. Modernisation/expansion of public sector steel plants has also been taken up. Import of steel is freely allowed and import duties have been gradually reduced, making imports cheaper.

[Translation]

Power Generation

1394. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Power output not even half of need" appearing in the 'Tribune' date June 27, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto and the power shortage noticed during the month of June, 1997 in the country;

(c) whether the power generation capacity in the country is 86,000 M.W.; and

(d) if so, the average percentage of power generation during the past years and actual annual generation of power, at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As against the peak requirement of 63419 MW during the month of June, 1997, the peak availability was 50.833 MW. The peak availability during April-June, 1997 is around 60% of the installed capacity. In June, 1997 energy generation went up by 8.2% over June. 1996, a performance not achieved since January, 1995. To improve the utilisation of existing capacity and to meet the projected increase in demand. Government is pursuing both short term and long term measures which, inter-alia, include, raising the PLF of existing stations. Renovation and modernisation of old plants, building of new capacities and price and institutional reforms in the power sector.

(c) Power generation capacity as on 30.6.97 is 86296 MW.

(d) The actual energy generation as a percentage of capacity for the last five years is as follows :-

S. No.	Years	Actual Peak power met (MW)	Power Generation as percentage of installed capacity
1.	1992-93	41984	58.0
2.	1993-94	44830	58.4
3.	1994-95	48066	59.2
4.	1995-96	49836	59.8
5.	1996-97	52376	60.6

Catering Charges in Rajdhani Express

1395. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Catering charges included in the fare of various classes for the Rajdhani Express;

(b) whether the Catering services are provided to the passengers as per the norms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The Catering charges included in the fare of various classes in the Rajdhani Express trains are fixed keeping in view the standard and quality of the menu, the number of services provided to the passengers between pair of stations, such as morning tea, breakfast, lunch, evening tea/snacks and dinner. The amount of these charges depends upon the srevices rendered.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These are based on standard menus prescribed for 1st AC and other classes separately.

[English]

Postal Facility in Maharashtra

1396. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Maharashtra where telephone facilities are available and number where such facilities are not available; and

(b) the time by which the same is proposed to be extended by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a)

(i)	Total No. of Post Offices	=	12324
(ii)	No. of Post Offices with Telephone facilitity	=	4524
(iii)	No. of Post Offices without telephone facility	=	7800

(b) Telephone facility will be provided to the remaining post offices on the basis of demand from Postal Authority and on technical feasibility.

[Translation]

Low and High Power Transmitters in UP

1397. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Low and High Power Transmitters operating in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) whether any scheme of converting Low Power Transmitters into High Power Transmitters have been received from the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) 9 HPTs, 57 LPTs, 20 VLPTs and 4 transposers for relay of DD-I and 3 LPTs for DD-II service are presently operational in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Representations are received, from time to time, from various quarters, including the State Governments, for augmentation of TV service in their respective States. Schemes for expansion of TV service are, however, formulated keeping in view Doordarshan's objective of extending its reach particularly to hitherto uncovered areas in the country. The existing LPT at Lakhimpur in Uttar Pradesh is envisaged to be upgraded into an HPT subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

(d) The normal lead time involved in implementation of a project of this nature is about 3-4 years after approval of the scheme by the competent authority.

[English]

Modernisation of Projects

1398. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to involve private companies or multinationals in the modernisation and expansion work of projects in steel sector; and

(b) if so, the total expenditure to be incurred in modernising all the steel plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) SAIL has undertaken modernisation programmes at its Steel Plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro. The modenisation programmes are currently going on. Contracts have been entered into by SAIL with multinationals/private parties/public sector undertakings for various items of work for these modernisation projects. The revival/modernisation programme of IISCO, Burnpur is under consideration. A cumulative expenditure of Rs. 11,946.92 crores is likely to be incurred on the modernisation projects of SAIL at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro.

[Translation]

Train Accidents

1399. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of train accidents occured in the country during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 uptill June, 1997, zone-wise;

(b) the reasons for occurence of higher number of accidents and derailments on Indore-Ujjain and Ujjain-Bhopal route under Western Railways; and

(c) the details of loss of life and property due to such accidents in areas falling under Central and Western Railway during the said period?